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By

Karl J. Bergin

PATENT

Attorney Docket No. 16238-000700

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPROVED
AS INDICATED

In re Patent of:

PHILIP E. EGGERS et al.

Patent No.: 5,697,882

Issue Date: December 16, 1997

For: SYSTEM AND METHODS FOR
ELECTROSURGICAL CUTTING AND
ABLATION

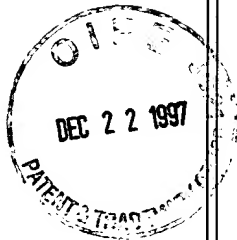
REQUEST FOR
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION
UNDER 37 CFR §1.323

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant under 37 CFR §1.323, Applicant submits a Certificate of Correction amending claim 23. These amendments to claim 23 have been made to correct typographical errors that were made in Applicant's Amendment filed on March 25, 1997. During that amendment, Applicant amended all of the claims to replace the term "liquid" with "fluid". In addition, Applicant amended all of the claims to replace the term "active electrode" with "electrode terminal".

In claim 23, however, Applicant mistakenly forgot to replace the term "active electrode" with "electrode terminal" on line 5. This term on line 5 derives antecedent basis from "an electrode terminal" on line 3 (also note the reference to electrode terminal on lines 7 and 9 of claim 23). Accordingly, in order to correct this error in antecedent basis, Applicant wishes to change "active electrode" on line 5 to "electrode terminal".



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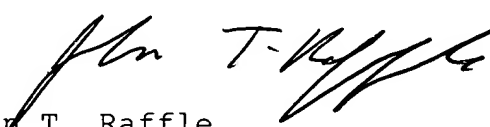
Similarly, on line 6 of claim 23, Applicant replaced "liquid" with "terminal" instead of replacing it with "fluid" as in the rest of claim 23, and the rest of the claims. In particular, note line 8 of claim 23 which refers to the fluid, clearly deriving antecedent basis from an earlier recitation of "fluid" in the claim. This antecedent basis must come from line 6. In addition, note dependent claims 46 and 47, which also refer to the electrically conductive fluid. These claims depend from claim 23. Finally, Applicant points out that the rest of the independent claims in this application (claims 48, 52 and 54) were amended to recite the step of "positioning the electrode terminal in close proximity to the target site in the presence of an electrically conducting [liquid] fluid".

Accordingly, it should clearly be seen that the above changes merely correct typographical errors made by the Applicant during prosecution of this case.

The desired corrections are set forth on form PTO 1050, enclosed herewith.

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$100.00, pursuant to 37 CFR \$1.20(a).

Respectfully submitted,


John T. Raffle
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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 5,697,882
DATED : December 16, 1997
INVENTOR(S) : Philip E. Eggers, et. al.

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

IN THE CLAIMS:

23. A method for applying energy to a target site on a patient body structure comprising:

providing an electrode terminal and a return electrode electrically coupled to a high frequency voltage source;

positioning the [active] electrode terminal in close proximity to the target site in the presence of an electrically conducting [terminal] fluid; and

applying a high frequency voltage between the electrode terminal and the return electrode, the high frequency voltage being sufficient to vaporize the fluid in a thin layer over at least a portion of the electrode terminal and to induce the discharge of energy to the target site in contact with the vapor layer.



Attest:

Mary H. Allen
Attesting Officer

Signed and Sealed this

Seventh Day of April, 1998

Bruce Lehman

BRUCE LEHMAN

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
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Patent No. 5,697,882

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